

# The Fairmont West Virginian.

VOLUME I.

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## TWO BATTLES ARE NOW IN PROGRESS

JAPS ADVANCING AGAINST MUKDEN AND PORT ARTHUR. MAY SURROUND KUROPATKIN AND CUT OFF

RETREAT—IF NOT CAUGHT IN A TRAP WILL HAVE TO MOVE NORTH—FIERCEST FIGHTING YET ENGAGED IN

(By Publishers' Press.)

LONDON, Sept. 24.—Two battles, the one in its initial stage and the other in the final stages, are believed to be in progress in Manchuria. At Mukden, the Japanese have begun their general advance against General Kuropatkin's force, while at Port Arthur efforts, more determined than have been exerted during the long season of terrific bombardments, are being put forth to speedily reduce the fortress. In northern Manchuria Field Marshal Oyama's troops are spread out in a huge semi-circle, the outer ends of which are being slowly but persistently drawn in in an evident attempt to completely surround General Kuropatkin's forces, and end the season's campaign by a brilliant victory, entailing the possible defeat and surrender of Kuropatkin's huge army. Already a portion of General Kuropatkin's forces have occupied Fu Pass on the shores of the Hun River, and within a few miles of the main road from Harbin to Port Arthur. Fu Pass is to the northeast of Mukden, about seven miles from that stronghold and a Japanese force here could readily move a little further to the westward and effectually cut off the Russian retreat. Again, the Japanese troops who have been marching northward to the west of the main road are said to be in a position to hurry shallow draught boats up the Liao river, and within a day or so occupy a position still further to the north of Mukden, where a junction might readily be effected with General Kuropatkin's force, thus completely enveloping the Russian Mukden army.

Such moves mean one of two things. Either General Kuropatkin will be caught in a trap with Japanese on all sides of him, or seeing his danger, he will be compelled to evacuate Mukden and instead of a terrific battle occurring at that place, the fighting will resolve itself into a rear guard action, while the main force continues its way north toward Harbin. Telegrams regarding the situation at Port Arthur are somewhat confusing, but the tenor of all are that a final desperate assault began yesterday or will be begun to-day.

One dispatch from St. Petersburg received in Paris states that the Japanese with that complete disregard for annihilation which has marked their fighting throughout the war, are now engaged in the fiercest fighting of the campaign. Whole battalions are said to have been moved down in the onslaught, or blown up by the subterranean mines which the Russians have planted along the roads which the assaulting army must pass.

Still another report emanating from Chee Foo and published in Rome, says that a demand for surrender has been sent into Port Arthur, and that in the event of its disregard the assault will be begun to-day.

Field Marshal Oyama is said to be most anxious to have the reduction of the fortress effected within a few days as such an event would mean the releasing of 50,000 veteran fighters who could be used in the fighting against General Kuropatkin about Mukden.

Fear Cholera Epidemic.

KIN CHOU, Sept. 24.—A Russian naval officer has received official advice which state that cholera has broken out at Port Arthur and that it is feared the sickness will become epidemic.

CONGRESSMAN DALZELL COMING.

A special received this afternoon announces that the Hon. John Dalzell, member of Congress, of Pittsburg, will speak in Fairmont Friday, October 7. Congressman Dalzell is a noted Republican orator and no one should miss hearing him.

### THE WEATHER.

Cooler To-Morrow.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 24.—Forecast for West Virginia: Partly cloudy to-night and Sunday; cooler Sunday.

## BILLIARD TOURNAMENT

At Yost Billiard Parlors Next Week. Thirteen Crack Shots to Play.

Thursday night at the Yost Billiard Parlors the drawing for the tournament will commence at the following named gentlemen were paired: H. Skinner vs. Curt Fleming. Harry Lee—Bye. F. Lane vs. Paul Hamilton. C. E. MacArthur vs. Scott Lowe. Arch Fleming vs. Pearl Pitzer. Tom Powell—Bye. Dr. L. G. Ice—Bye. Ice Poling vs. George Miller. On next Monday evening, September 26, at 8 o'clock sharp, the tournament will commence at Yost Billiard Parlors. The interest already manifested in this affair is of a very strong nature, and the rivalry between the competing players has developed into the keenest. As each of the contestants is well and favorably known, doubtless their many admirers will attend and "root" for his or her favorite, as the case may be. Ladies that desire to attend are assured the especial attention of the manager, Mr. C. S. Pitzer, and judging from the class of people who have signified their intentions of attending, the tournament will take on the aspect of a social event. The winner of the tournament will receive a handsome gold badge, engraved "Champion Yost Billiard Parlors." Mr. C. E. MacArthur is the present champion and winner of the last tournament, but from the class of contestants entered this gentleman will have to look to his laurels, as there are six players entered as "scratch men," which puts them on an equal with him, and as the tournament is a handicap affair it gives all entries an equal chance. It will probably be the most interesting affair ever held in select sporting circles.

## "RESURRECTION"

WAS A GOOD ONE—"A WOMAN'S REVENGE THIS AFTERNOON"—"HELL'S KITCHEN" TO-NIGHT.

"Resurrection," as produced by the Margaret Neville Company at the Grand last night, proved to be one of the most pleasing bills of the week. In the version used by this Company much of the gloom and sombreness of Tolstoi's story has been eliminated—and quite a vein of comedy has been introduced in a natural and consistent manner.

As "Katasha Maslova" Miss Neville gave another artistic treat. She showed by her work that she had given much study and thought to this difficult role and her conception of it rang true. Not a false note was discernible at any time during the evening.

The support throughout was excellent.

This afternoon at 2:30 "A Woman's Revenge" was presented, while the night bill will be the great English "Hell's Kitchen." A special feature of to-night's bill will be "The Great Broadsword Combat on Horseback." This is one of the most thrilling spectacles ever presented on the stage, and will without doubt attract a large crowd.

A Good Game To-Morrow.

To-morrow on Traction Park one of the most interesting games of the season will be played. This is the truth in every sense of the word, no matter how the game goes, or what the final score will be. Monongah vs. Enterprise is the way the game is advertised, although both teams are loaded up to the muzzle. Bob Carney, late of Evansville, in the Central League, heads the latter team, and has secured some of the very best material in the entire region. McClintock, of Homestead, will pitch.

Managers Ruckman and Flaherty, of Monongah, with characteristic love of good sport, have signed one of the strongest teams ever seen in this city, among others being Bryson, Adamson, McDonald, Fleming, Gibbs and Wayman, of the old Fairmont team. A special base ball train will be run from the mining regions up the M. R. division, and thousands of people are expected.

The true merit—W. L. Douglas \$3.50 Shoe for men. C. B. Highland.

RUSSIA'S RAY OF HOPE.



And now the time is eagerly looked forward to in Russia when it can be announced that baby has a tooth.

## AS OTHERS SAW THE DAVIS MEETING

SOME VERY INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS ON THE DEMOCRATIC OPENING AT WHEELING ON THURSDAY NIGHT.

A local paper under a Wheeling date line gave a very rosy account of the opening meeting of the Democratic campaign at Wheeling on Thursday night.

Henry Hall, one of the best known and most reliable newspaper correspondents in the country, sent a complete account to the Pittsburgh Times. We give it in part below. It will be noticed that instead of 10,000 people being present as stated in the local paper, 2,000 are the figures Mr. Hall uses.

The Wheeling Meeting.

WHEELING, Sept. 22.—After two postponements, one from Tuesday until Thursday and another from this afternoon until this evening, the Democracy of West Virginia formally opened their State campaign here to-night. Of course Henry Gassaway Davis, the candidate for Vice President, was the star of the occasion. He arrived here last night, escorted by John T. McGraw, the Democratic boss of West Virginia.

Mr. Davis' greeting was in most striking contrast with that extended last week to Senator Charles W. Fairbanks, his Republican opponent, at Parkersburg. There several thousand people met Mr. Fairbanks and escorted him to his hotel. Last night not more than 200 people were assembled when Mr. Davis arrived, and by actual count, the procession which went with him to his hotel numbered outside of the band, only 46 persons. But then it was late and a very cold night. Several people called at the hotel and extended their greeting to the candidate.

To-day the Vice Presidential candidate passed what a local paper calls a "quiet day." The Times correspondent was at the hotel, which is also the State Democratic headquarters, several times, and at no time were there to be seen as many people, to use an Irish expression, "as would bolster a crutch." It was a very quiet place, indeed. The city was quiet too.

An Incident Recalled.

Most of those on the streets were colored people, assembled to celebrate the emancipation of their race by Abraham Lincoln, and, consequently, were not to be classed among the adherents of a man who at Charleston, before he was nominated for Vice President, is said to have declared for "a white man's government in West Virginia."

The meeting to-night was held in a tent, said to hold 2,000 people. It was filled full, with a good many people on the outskirts of the crowd. Prior to the meeting a procession escorted the speakers from the hotel, and there was music and some red fire. The procession cannot be called very large. Still, the meeting was a creditable one, for a Republican community, although it cannot be successfully compared with the meeting addressed by Senator Fairbanks and the State Republican candidates at Parkersburg last Saturday.

Two Meetings Compared.

There Republicans were assembled on the stand. The Democrats of two-thirds of the business houses and private residences displayed pic-

tures of Roosevelt and Fairbanks. Here the audience was mainly made up of residents of Wheeling and with the sole exception of the Democratic headquarters, there was not a picture of the Democratic candidates to be seen.

Mr. Davis got a good reception along the streets and when he appeared on the stand. The Democrats of West Virginia seem to have a warm place in their hearts for him, and it is creditable to them that they greeted him cordially. There was a large number of leading Democrats on the stand, including John T. McGraw, O. S. McKinney, chairman of the State committee; Col. Thomas O'Brien, Captain Parnell Gordon, J. J. Lutz, Albert A. Franzheim, John Baker and many others. Prominent Republicans were also in and out in some force, among them C. W. Swisher, candidate for Secretary of State; Capt. B. B. Dovenor, member of Congress from this district; Capt. John M. Birch, George Laughlin, Emmett Showalter and Thomas O'Brien. There is no reason to believe, however, that these gentlemen were there as seekers after Democratic truth.

Senator Davis was introduced by Henry M. Russell, the chairman of the meeting, and spoke briefly. The Senator is undoubtedly physically vigorous for a man over 50 years of age. He is neither infirm nor decrepit. In fact, he is wonderfully well preserved. But he is certainly "no orator as Brutus was." His voice is that of an old man and did not carry farther back than the first few rows of seats. At times he hesitated for a word, and sometimes he repeated, but this may arise rather from a lack of familiarity with public speaking than from age.

Living in the Past.

He went over his time-worn arguments about Republican extravagance, a reminiscence of the days when he was in the Senate, and tried to raise a hue and cry over the same subject there. The matter was investigated, and the Republican accounts were successfully vindicated. But old men live mostly in the past, and Mr. Davis is no exception to the rule. He also took up State questions briefly and made the regulation Democratic argument as to taxation. His audience was kind, and applauded, although somewhat perfunctorily.

Taking the occasion altogether the Democrats of West Virginia had to get a former Republican to make the opening of their campaign really worth while.

Then Came a Foghorn.

When Mr. Towne had concluded John T. McGraw denounced the Republican party in a loud voice and in "good, set terms," something he has been doing these many years, both as manager of Democratic campaigns and as a candidate for the Senate and Congress with very indifferent success. His motto seems to be, "Holler, if you don't sell a darn clam." His audience seemed to appreciate his vocal abilities and gave him generous applause. The habit of belittling the meetings of political opponents is a common one, but it is only candid to say that, compared with the opening of the Republican campaign at Parkersburg last Saturday, to-night's meeting does not measure up to the standard set there.

## CONCERNING THE SACRED CONCERT

DR. J. H. LUCAS.

President of the Fairmont Ministerial Association, Makes a Statement Concerning the Proposed Sunday Concert.

Editors West Virginian:

Will you kindly permit me to make a personal statement in your paper concerning the proposed sacred concert advertised for to-morrow (Sunday) evening at the Grand Opera House of this city? I ask the privilege in order that the full facts in the case as they stand related to me and the other members of the association over which I have the honor to preside, may be known, and any false impressions corrected.

The first notice I had of the proposed concert was a telephone message received Thursday morning, along with a request to call a special meeting of the Ministerial Association. I complied with the request, and a meeting was held at which the manager of the opera house was present to state the facts in the case as they concerned him and the Opera House Company. He stated that the Boys' Symphony Orchestra of New York had been engaged by him to give a "sacred concert" in the opera house on Sunday evening, September 25th, 1904, and that for their services he was pledged to give them not less than \$300. He said that he had consulted some of the ministers of the town and thought he had secured their approval, and asked us not to proceed against the entertainment.

Concerning the previous consultation with the ministers, a matter commented on in your issue of yesterday, which reports the manager as saying that "When he first negotiated with the orchestra for a Sunday date he called on several local ministers and asked their opinion on the matter," and that "nearly all of them expressed their approval," the following is the fact: Mr. Powell spoke to just four ministers about the matter, and only two of them were pastors of town churches. Just how Mr. Powell figures that two out of eleven or twelve pastors in this town are "nearly all of them," I am unable to understand. Allow me to say that the writer was not one of the two; and that both of these assert that whether it was their fault in not giving attention to Mr. Powell's words, or his in not making a full statement of the facts, they never understood themselves as approving of the concert as it is now advertised.

After a deliberate consideration of the matter, in which we took into account the many assaults that have been so recently made upon the sacredness of the Sabbath day, and remembering that, as pastors of this community, we are measurably responsible for the public sentiment on this and every other matter involving moral and religious questions, we deemed it our duty to call the attention of the mayor and all Sabbath loving people to this as a new form of Sabbath desecration and violation of law, and ask that steps be taken to prevent what seems to us a serious and unlawful act. For these reasons we drafted two documents addressed the one to the public and the other to the mayor, setting forth our position in this matter. We believe that they are each sufficiently explicit and need no comment. One was published by you yesterday, and the other, we are informed will appear in your paper to-day.

In your paper of yesterday Mr. Powell is represented as saying that the "action of the ministers in this instance is unfair, as they (the ministers) allow the town to run wide open on Sunday without protest to the city officials." Now surely if Mr. Powell had thought a moment he would not have made that statement. He cannot have forgotten that only a few months ago, a formal protest was made through the city papers—his own included—by the Ministerial Association, and from several pulpits against other forms of Sabbath desecration and violation of law. One sermon preached on this specific subject by the writer was published in full in the Times. No, we have always protested and will never cease to protest against every form of evil and law breaking that comes under our notice. However, we do not regard ourselves as invested with police authority, and hence in duty bound to go out and personally run down brothels and violators of the law. We have elected a mayor and appointed policemen for this purpose, and expect them to protect us by enforcing the law against all these things. How-

ever, if by a failure to do this, we may be forced to take further action in such matters, I, for one, will not shrink from the duty.

We do not take the position we have in regard to this concert because of its character—we know nothing about that—but because it is a clear violation of the law, and, therefore, should be suppressed. The same program given in one of our churches, where the object is the worship of Almighty God, transferred to the Opera House and given under the conditions of this concert, the object being private financial profit, would be just as unlawful as this proposed concert, and ought to be suppressed. The fact that the opera house management has agreed to pay the Boys' Symphony Orchestra at least \$300 for their work upon that occasion, and that they propose to sell to the public the results of their labors, constitutes the entertainment as much a breach of the law as if any business house of this town would open up to-morrow for regular business. This is the regular business of the Opera House Company, and conducted just as upon any other day, and certainly comes under both the statutes of the city and State, which prohibit the carrying out of a man's regular avocation or calling on Sunday, excepting works of necessity and charity under which latter head churches and religious organizations perform their work.

I feel that it is only just to the mayor to say that our action in formally calling his attention to this matter, and demanding of him the enforcement of the law was taken, not because we felt that he would not perform his sworn duty without being forced to it, but that he might have due and sufficient notice of the proposed and advertised violation, and know that the moral and religious sentiment of the community, which we believe we represent, was with him, and would stand by him in the enforcement of the law.

We hope and have reason to believe that our action in this matter will have nothing whatever to do with his performance of duty. Whether we protested or not, his duty would have been the same, and would have been performed, we wish to believe, and have no reason to doubt.

Concerning the question of law there can be no doubt. As competent legal counsel as can be found in this State assures us that this proposed Sunday concert is contrary to the laws of both the State and municipality, and that it is both the promise and duty of the city authorities to prevent the proposed entertainment. Now that the attention of the opera house management, as well as that of the mayor and public has been called to the legal aspect of the case, is it too much to hope that rather than appear as law-breakers, those having control of this matter will acknowledge their mistake and withdraw the entertainment, and thus save the community the sad spectacle of reputable gentlemen resisting authority and encouraging lawlessness?

Yours for righteousness and the enforcement of the law,

J. H. LUCAS.

Mr. Powell Replies.

When the management of the opera house was shown the above communication it was too late to make a full statement defining its position, but it will say that it does not think that the communication treats the proposition fairly, and wants to reassert that the assurance received from four of Fairmont's most prominent ministers was such that any interference at this time upon the part of their brother pastors is uncalled for and unfair. The management had no desire or intention to offend any minister in the city and would not have brought the orchestra to this city if it had had any intimation that the church people did not want it.

The writer of the above article claims, along with two other ministers, that they did not know that a concert had been advertised to take place until two days ago. How it was possible for them not to have known of it is beyond comprehension, when it has been advertised almost daily for the past month in both daily papers and also in the weeklies.

If this opposition had appeared in time for the contract with the musical organization to have been canceled the same would have been accomplished, but as it is now too late to cancel the same, the concert will take

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